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Chairperson: Mr. Fonseca (Vice-Chairperson) ..... (Brazil)
later: Ms. Intelmann (Chairperson) ..... (Estonia)

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In the absence of Ms. Intelmann (Estonia), Mr. Fonseca (Brazil), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

General debate *(continued)*

1. **Mr. Wolfe** (Jamaica) welcomed the attention given, at the recent high-level meeting between the Economic and Social Council, the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), to support the development efforts of middle-income countries, since the latter's special concerns were sometimes overlooked because of their relatively high per capita income. Regarding external debt and debt service obligations, for example, there was currently no systematic international solution in sight for low and middle-income countries, nor had there been any such solution to problems related to debt owed to private creditors.

2. Trade liberalization had not always brought about the expected economic benefits and the decline in the terms of trade and erosion of longstanding preferential trading arrangements had had a negative impact on foreign exchange earnings, and had exacerbated the balance of payments situation. He therefore urged the international community not to falter in its commitment to work towards achieving the development-oriented results of the Doha Work Programme.

3. There was urgent need for institutional and policy changes at all levels to ensure wider economic integration. The United Nations could play a critical role in that regard by taking concerted action on trade, debt and development assistance. Jamaica had hoped for the early conclusion of negotiations to implement the provisions of the 2005 World Summit relevant to the work of the Economic and Social Council, given the fact that the promotion of international cooperation for economic growth and sustainable development was contingent on the provision of adequate resources for the Council to assume the added responsibilities as agreed by world leaders in 2005. It was equally important to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations system and other multilateral financial, trade and development institutions, in order to provide a platform for real dialogue on issues affecting impoverished peoples.

4. Effectiveness of multilateral dialogue depended on enhanced voice for and participation of developing countries in global economic governance. Firm and specific timetables for prompt action for comprehensive reform of the governance structures of international financial institutions should be established. Furthermore, his delegation looked forward to the report of the High-Level Panel on System-Wide Coherence in the areas of Development, Environment and Humanitarian Activities, and to the elaboration of firm measures to enhance the role of the United Nations as a development tool at the national, regional and global levels.

5. Advancement of the development agenda also implied the need for full implementation of the global partnership for development. Lack of resources to fully implement the Millennium Development Goals and other development goals remained a matter of growing concern. It was regrettable that the resolution on the follow-up to the development outcome of the World Summit merely reflected the agreed language of the Summit Outcome instead of making concrete proposals for advancing the development agenda. As a result, the international community had been unable to elaborate the necessary framework for the effective implementation of the global partnership for development that was critical to creating a more equitable and balanced financial, economic and social global order.

6. He called on countries to provide the necessary resources to support small island developing States in their efforts to respond to the challenges of the global environment, and joined previous speakers in underscoring the importance of making sustainable development a central policy for all countries. Given its vulnerability to hurricanes and other natural disasters, Jamaica was well aware of the urgency of tackling environmental issues and establishing disaster response mechanisms; it therefore welcomed the launching of the Central Emergency Response Fund.

7. **Mr. Altenaiji** (United Arab Emirates) said that millions of people continued to suffer from chronic disease, abject poverty, unemployment, armed conflict, terrorism and foreign occupation, all of which impeded sustainable development and threatened international peace and security. He therefore reaffirmed the importance of development as the best path to security, stability and prosperity for all. While commending the positive initiatives made by some developed States

regarding development assistance and debt relief, he called on all stakeholders to take the necessary steps to speed up the implementation of all recommendations and resolutions adopted at the major international conferences and summits on development and expressed the hope that all parties would be able to resolve their differences in order to resume the Doha round of negotiations as soon as possible.

8. The national development strategy of the United Arab Emirates focused on the rational use of oil resources and creation of a basic infrastructure for development in other economic sectors, with the aim of diversifying its sources of income. As a result, the non-oil sector now accounted for 67 per cent of gross national income. The development strategy adopted by the United Arab Emirates focused on development of human resources, encouraging the private sector to play a more effective role in economic development, application of new information and communication technologies, incorporation of environmental dimensions into national development plans and contributing to international partnership and development efforts in a variety of ways. Development assistance provided by the United Arab Emirates had amounted to 3.6 per cent of its gross national income. Moreover, the country was considered one of the largest employment markets in the Middle East. The annual remittances of its foreign labour force totalled approximately 22 billion dollars.

9. **Mr. Shawkat** (Iraq) said that a flourishing globalized economy could be created through international technological cooperation, provided that sustainable human development was guaranteed and the gap separating the developed and developing States from the less developed States was closed. Iraq believed that sustainable development went hand in hand with respect for human rights, equitable distribution of wealth, and respect for the role of women in the development process. In Iraq, instability and terrorism were hindering reconstruction and development, and the Prime Minister had launched a national reconciliation initiative to create conditions that would allow the Government to deal with poverty and unemployment.

10. Adapting to globalization and free trade posed particular difficulties for developing countries. The international community and multilateral and bilateral development finance institutions needed to offer aid without political conditions to ease the burden resulting from the decline in revenues for countries that still largely depended on commodity exports. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank had helped Iraq take steps to use oil revenues to reform infrastructure and diversify sources of income. Iraq appreciated the assistance it had received, such as the reduction of its Paris Club debt by 80 per cent, and hoped to receive further assistance in reducing or eliminating its debt burden. Financial assistance from donor States had done much to create optimism, and he appealed to them to fulfil their commitments to help his country develop and integrate into the world economy. In that regard the Government had formed an international contact group for countries and international organizations wishing to help with Iraqi reconstruction during its transitional phase. The Government was aware that good governance and settlement of political and security issues were preconditions for progress.

11. Despite its preoccupation with the internal situation, the Government was seeking to regain its position as a regional and international actor and was working with friends and the international community towards a Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its capital. It stood by the people of Lebanon as they tried to recover from the recent Israeli aggression.

12. All people had an interest in protecting present and future generations from natural disasters and diseases, in particular HIV/AIDS, which had enormous implications for the development process. Iraq had faith in the role of the United Nations in dealing with international problems, and declared its solidarity with the international community in the effort to achieve sustainable development and economic stability.

13. **Mr. Muburi-Muita** (Kenya) said that there had been a few signs of progress, such as the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission, the Human Rights Council and the establishment of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). Nevertheless, the slow pace of reform of the Economic and Social Council showed that the commitment of development partners was wavering.

14. While expressing appreciation for the efforts made through the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, he noted with concern that the debt issue seriously affected other low and middle-income countries, such as Kenya.

15. He expressed the hope that a fair, rule-based trading system would emerge so that producers of agricultural raw materials could obtain fair and stable remuneration for their products. The collapse of the Doha Round of negotiations had exposed a glaring insensitivity to the plight of developing countries. Special attention must be given to developments in the international trading arena and building capacity in developing countries to effectively participate in international trade and related forums. In that context, he called for the strengthening of UNCTAD.

16. Describing the positive economic performance of the Kenyan economy, he said that the growth rate was projected to reach a level of just below 6 per cent in 2006. The Government's main objective was the restoration of economic growth within a sustainable framework of low inflation, declining fiscal imbalances and domestic borrowing, and a healthy balance of payments.

17. The state of the environment had emerged as a vital factor of development, and Kenya had embarked on consultations on the institutional framework for environmental activities and the commissioning of the High-Level Panel on System-Wide Coherence in the areas of Development, Environment and Humanitarian Activities. It stood ready to work with the international community in ensuring that sustainable development was given due attention.

18. Finally, he highlighted the work undertaken under the Habitat Agenda to curb the growing problem of slum development and to improve sanitation and hygiene, and called for human settlements issues to be given greater priority.

19. **Ms. Interiano** (El Salvador) said that as a middle-income country, El Salvador faced the major challenge of achieving sustainable economic growth that would allow it to fund its poverty reduction, and providing gainful employment for the promotion of social stability, security and a sustainable democracy. The exclusion of low and middle-income countries from official development assistance often had an impact on their national development programmes and their ability to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Developing countries should forge real social partnerships and strategic alliances with developed countries in the fight against poverty.

20. El Salvador remained committed to efforts undertaken within the framework of South-South cooperation, but acknowledged that it was nevertheless crucial to strengthen ties with developed countries through market access and financial flows for productive investment. Developing countries must bridge the digital divide and improve education at all levels. Furthermore, they should encourage capacity-building and facilitate access to, inter alia, information and communication technologies.

21. In conclusion, she reiterated the importance her Government attached to the issue of migration and development, the fundamental role of the United Nations funds and programmes in the execution of national development strategies and the search for new financing mechanisms for poverty eradication programmes. With the necessary political will, the international community could create new alternatives for development that would contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

22. **Ms. Enkhtsetseg** (Mongolia) said that technological progress was now so rapid that the human family had become interdependent to an extent hitherto unknown. The threats and challenges of the 21st century were likewise interrelated. Terrorism, transnational organized crime, illicit drug-trafficking, violence, religious and other intolerance further exacerbated the deadly cycle of poverty, infectious diseases and environmental degradation. The international community had a shared responsibility to deal with those threats by honouring the commitments made at various summit meetings and by implementing a global partnership for development.

23. Global economic growth was still too slow to enable the international community, especially the developing countries, to achieve the internationally agreed development goals. Efforts must be redoubled to resume the multilateral trade negotiations as soon as possible, so that the development promises of the Doha Round could be fulfilled. The needs and interests of the developing countries must be placed at the centre of the negotiations, and they should be provided with development financing, including official development assistance (ODA) and offered greater access to markets.

24. Mongolia attached special importance to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and had incorporated them into the guidelines for the country's economic and social development. It expected to achieve most of its targets for education,

gender, child and maternal health, and combating disease by 2015, but the goals of halving poverty rates and ensuring environmental sustainability remained a source of concern. The Government was pursuing certain quick-impact measures for poverty reduction and income generation, but to succeed it would need effective cooperation with its development partners.

25. The international community had introduced specific targets to address the special needs of landlocked developing countries, and the first meeting of Heads of State and Government of those countries had recently been held in Havana, Cuba. The meeting had reaffirmed the need to implement the Almaty Programme of Action and the São Paulo Consensus. The landlocked developing countries needed the sustained commitment of the international community, through financial support and technical assistance, to build their export capability and overcome their natural handicaps. Mongolia had been actively promoting their interests in the Doha Round negotiations, and had made proposals for improving articles 5, 7 and 10 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, so as to simplify procedures for the transit traffic of goods. It was seeking to complete trilateral arrangements with China and the Russian Federation to facilitate transit traffic through the world's largest land corridor. In its view, transit traffic should be governed by a fully fledged multilateral agreement. In 2003, Mongolia had participated in the International Ministerial Meeting on Transit Transport Cooperation in Almaty and, in 2005, it had attended the Meeting of Trade Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries in Asunción and Hong Kong. It had also offered to host the next meeting of the trade ministers in 2007, as a further step towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the Almaty Programme of Action.

26. **Mr. Maema** (Lesotho), speaking on behalf of the member States of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), called upon all stakeholders to make concerted efforts towards timely implementation of the 2005 World Summit Outcome and of General Assembly resolution 60/265.

27. The SADC region had recorded an overall 5 per cent growth rate in real terms, compared with 4.1 per cent in 2004. It was still, however, below the target growth rate for the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. The war against poverty was far from being won. Abject poverty continued to increase in sub-Saharan Africa and in the SADC region, and was the chief obstacle to achieving development goals. The SADC Summit, held in Lesotho in August 2006, had established an inter-ministerial task force to work with the SADC Secretariat on a road map for eradicating poverty. He appealed to the international community to continue to assist the region in capacity-building, resource mobilization and technology transfer, and in improving agricultural productivity. The importance of agriculture and rural development in eradicating poverty could hardly be overemphasized. Developing agriculture could be the means of improving the lives of the 80 per cent of the population of the region who were now trapped in extreme poverty. Over 75 per cent of the population made their living from agriculture, but they were still largely dependent on basic tools and the vagaries of the climate. Trade-distorting practices on world markets exacerbated the problems of the agricultural sector. It was regrettable that the Committee paid so little attention to agriculture and rural development. The topic ought to be a regular item on its agenda.

28. The SADC region faced many challenges, including the HIV/AIDS pandemic, natural disasters, environmental degradation and desertification, climate change, the debt burden and general marginalization within the global economic system. At its recent summit meeting, SADC had resolved to scale up interventions to combat HIV/AIDS in the context of the 2004 Maseru Declaration. He appealed to multilateral institutions, the United Nations agencies and bilateral donors to continue supporting its efforts on health and related issues.

29. The region had embarked on a number of economic, social and political reforms, including the democratic elections recently held in Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zambia. The debt burden was, however, preventing countries in the region from investing in productive sectors and achieving their development goals. Some countries had benefited from the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, others from the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI). SADC appreciated the efforts of the G8 in that respect, and called upon other multilateral and bilateral creditors to extend the HIPC Initiative and the MDRI to all highly indebted countries in the region.

30. The SADC countries were extremely disturbed by the collapse of the Doha Round negotiations. He called

for the resumption of negotiations without further delay, and urged the key players to negotiate in good faith. He also urged immediate reform of the international trading system, adding that the World Trade Organization should be reformed to make it democratic, transparent, non-discriminatory and inclusive.

31. The commitments of the Monterrey Consensus also needed to be implemented in full, and efforts should be made to attain the ODA target of 0.7 per cent of GNP. To achieve the Millennium Development Goals in developing countries, the pledge of an additional US$ 50 billion must also be fulfilled. SADC welcomed the commitment of the G8 and the European Union to increase aid to Africa by US$ 25 billion annually by 2010.

32. **Mr. Rosselli** (Uruguay) said that the only way to attain the goal of sustainable development was by securing fully democratic governance, respect for the rule of law and human rights and protection of the environment, and by combating corruption and ensuring sound management of public finance and monetary affairs. At the same time, the international community must make a coordinated effort to eradicate poverty. It should undertake to liberalize international trade and to increase development aid by identifying alternative sources of funding.

33. The United Nations had a crucial role to play in democratizing the benefits of globalization. The commitments made at the many recent summit meetings must be realized, especially by the developed countries, through additional financial resources. Reform of the Economic and Social Council would strengthen its role and authority. The United Nations must, however, ensure that economic and social development measures were extended to countries which had already, by dint of considerable effort, attained intermediate levels of development. Currently they were virtually debarred from receiving official development assistance; 90 per cent of Latin Americans living in extreme poverty lived in those countries. Countries such as his own stood especially in need of development finance in order to free up funds to achieve their goals.

34. His Government was committed to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and had put in place a series of programmes to meet the basic needs of persons living in extreme poverty. The only way to eradicate extreme poverty was by providing secure employment. A key element of Uruguay's development strategy was working with the private sector to generate a climate favourable to business start-ups.

35. His Government was also working to liberalize the international trading system. The latter should be open and non-discriminatory; it should include agriculture and ensure fairer access to markets, including those of the developed countries. Every effort should be made to restart the Doha Round negotiations. Trade liberalization must be accompanied by other measures, including increased ODA. He welcomed the decision by five developed countries to fulfil the ODA target of 0.7 per cent of GNP, noting that the commitment had been made some 40 years earlier. His Government was also interested in proposals for innovative and additional forms of development financing such as the Initiative against Hunger and Poverty. Collaboration between the United Nations and the multilateral financial organizations should be stepped up in order to mobilize core development funds. As for external debt, it was important to strike a balance between meeting existing commitments and the need to have funds available for domestic purposes.

36. International migration should be seen in a global context. International dialogue and cooperation was needed in order to protect migrants and their families from exploitation. The recent High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development was an excellent model in that respect, and the topic would also be on the agenda of the next Summit of the Americas, to be held in Montevideo.

37. International cooperation was essential to avert environmental degradation, and to promote compliance with the agreements adopted at the Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 and at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. For Uruguay, sustainable development meant respecting the needs of both present and future generations. Every State must exercise its responsibility to actively protect the environment of its territory and waters, with the vigilant participation of civil society. At the national level, Uruguay was complying with all its environmental commitments under the various international legal instruments.

38. **Mr. Kau** (Fiji) said that the restructuring and mainstreaming of the work of the General Assembly and the Committee must incorporate implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of major conferences and summits without diluting any agenda items that were crucial to developing countries, such as those relating to debt, trade, commodities and financing for development. The Committee must therefore concentrate on identifying better ways and means to ensure that the Organization effectively promoted the implementation of United Nations conferences and summits, particularly the internationally agreed development goals and targets, as contained in the Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and including the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

39. Fiji recognized the importance of the multidimensional aspect of migration, and supported the idea of further dialogue on the subject. While regional and bilateral programmes were important, there was a need for an international approach conducted within the context of United Nations activities and programmes. Fiji would continue to support measures to reduce the transfer cost of remittances and to ensure that migrants' rights were protected. The issues of labour mobility, integrated security, and border control and orderly migration should be dealt with on the basis of partnership at all levels.

40. Globalization was bringing major changes that were directly and indirectly affecting livelihoods in Member States. As opportunities and wealth were created, the poorer developing countries of the South were becoming increasingly marginalized. The multilateral trading rules emanating from the World Trade Organization (WTO) favoured the interests of developed countries, and had resulted in widening disparities, increased marginalization and worsening global poverty. The suspension of the Doha Development Round had increased his delegation's conviction that multilateral trading rules should be made more flexible so that the development concerns of countries such as his own could be addressed. In that connection, he urged all delegations to call for an early resumption of the suspended WTO talks.

41. The Mauritius Strategy must be implemented and a clear and practical framework and strategy for resource mobilization and the promotion of partnership initiatives should be devised as soon as possible. Support for the preparation of national sustainable development strategies among SIDS should be extended to include capacity-building. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's call for more support from the international community and specifically urged Fiji's partners in the Pacific to join that partnership.

42. **Mr. Kafando** (Burkina Faso) said that as the representative of South Africa had already addressed the many broader issues before the Committee, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, he would confine his remarks to those which affected his country more specifically.

43. The Monterrey Conference of 2001 had highlighted the importance of strengthening the partnership for addressing development issues, and had also recommended appropriate measures. However, the measures taken thus far had proved somewhat disappointing and he was looking forward to the follow-up conference which was to be held in Qatar in the coming months.

44. Given the urgent need to promote a fair international trading system, and the failure of the Doha negotiations, his delegation had been working with others in an effort to find ways to raise the prices paid in international markets for developing countries' agricultural products, especially cotton. Stressing the justness of the case, he urged the developed countries to stop subsidizing their own agricultural production.

45. It was essential for Member States to take prompt steps to address the question of migration. It was only through consultation dialogue among countries of origin, transit and destination that lasting solutions would be found. His delegation therefore welcomed the recent negotiations on the issue between Europe and Africa, as well as the recent high-level dialogue on international migration and development.

46. The recent hike in oil prices had highlighted the structural weakness of the economies of the least developed countries, and the absence of a global mechanism to reduce the impact of rises in oil prices. It was therefore imperative to implement the Brussels Programme of Action. Special treatment should be given to landlocked developing countries and within the context of the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations, those countries should also be given

special and differentiated treatment with respect to their agricultural products, in accordance with the Almaty Programme of Action and the São Paulo Consensus. In that context, Burkina Faso had offered to organize a meeting of landlocked developing countries on the theme of international trade during the first half of 2007.

47. Lastly, his country firmly intended to contribute towards the reform of the United Nations, particularly its Economic and Social Council, and would work to improve the coordination of the United Nations system on the ground with a view to bringing the Organization's actions into line with the policies of Member States, thereby making them more effective.

48. **Mr. Lwin** (Myanmar), recalling that, in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, Member States had made commitments to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development and global prosperity for all, urged all developed countries to set a deadline for achieving their declared target of devoting 0.7 per cent of their gross national product (GNP) to official development assistance (ODA) by 2015.

49. While recognizing that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development, he said that developing countries could not succeed without supportive global programmes. They needed an equitable and balanced trading system that benefited all countries. Suspension of the Doha Development Round would have profound implications for all. Failure to conclude the Round might result in the continued practice of granting subsidies in agricultural trade, which deprived developing countries of equal access to agricultural markets. Development opportunities should not be hindered by protectionist measures, including those taken unilaterally and under the guise of technical standards, environmental, social or human rights-related concerns.

50. Myanmar was working to achieve economic development without any help from international financial institutions, and was adopting short and long-term strategies to that end. In an increasingly globalized world, countries were constantly faced with daunting challenges and opportunities, which they could not possibly deal with on their own. Developing and developed countries must therefore come together in a global partnership in order to address the issues of globalization in a comprehensive manner.

51. **Mr. Outlule** (Botswana) said that poverty and deprivation remained critical challenges for the international community. Economic prosperity and higher living standards should be the common heritage of mankind, not the exclusive preserve of a few nations. Developing countries recognized their responsibility for setting their own development agenda, but the wealthy, industrialized nations must recognize poverty as a challenge that they, too, must confront.

52. The 2005 World Summit Outcome had called on Member States to maintain their support for middle-income countries, and that decision should be implemented with the requisite degree of seriousness. The indications were that middle-income countries would fail to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Only if the existing commitments made at the various development conferences and summits were implemented would the global partnership for development have any real meaning for the inhabitants of developing countries.

53. Botswana therefore welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 60/265 on follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit. However, the resolution must be effectively implemented. Despite the creation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Africa was significantly behind the other continents of the world in its efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and it would require greater and assured support from the international community.

54. The suspension of the Doha Development Round was a matter of deep concern to his delegation. Member States must do their utmost to resume negotiations and bring them to a timely and successful conclusion. Adoption of the resolution on international trade and development, by consensus, during the current session would represent a positive first step. His delegation looked forward to receiving the Secretary-General's forthcoming report on system-wide coherence. In view of the plethora of commitments on international development, the United Nations system must become more coherent and coordinated.

55. **Ms. Swar** (Nepal) said that the 2005 World Summit had underscored the importance of development and stressed the need to take rapid measures towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals. Developing countries were committed to assuming primary responsibility for their own development, and attainment of sustainable development and poverty eradication had become their common ambition. Poorer nations continued to be marginalized and had not yet benefited from the development agenda collectively pursued by the international community.

56. The problem of human deprivation in the developing world could not be addressed without a genuine partnership for development. The suspension of the Doha Development Round had raised questions as to whether multilateral trade negotiations really included a development focus. The promise to ensure duty-free, quota-free and unimpeded market access for all products of least developed countries (LDCs) to the markets of developed countries, under favourable rules of origin, remained unfulfilled. The least developed countries deserved special attention. Not only should they be given adequate resources to finance public investment and infrastructure development but they must also have access to technology, including new and environmentally sound technology, and all-inclusive debt relief.

57. Timely fulfilment of international financial commitments was also critical, and efforts should be made to enhance the quality and quantity of aid in accordance with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. Special focus should also be given to the situation of LDCs emerging from conflict, and to landlocked developing countries. Lastly, implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action would help such countries integrate into the global economy. Her Government's economic policies were aimed at improving the investment climate and achieving growth that was both broad-based and pro-poor in nature. However, their success would depend upon the availability and effective mobilization of resources; it was therefore critical that Nepal receive increased support from the donor community.

58. **Mr. Latheef** (Maldives) said that his Government was deeply concerned at the international community's failure to halt the deterioration of the environment and called upon all States to adhere to the standards set by the Kyoto Protocol and to implement Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Mauritius Strategy.

59. The development barriers that needed to be overcome in order for the Maldives to achieve the Millennium Development Goals included regional disparities in income and access to social services, youth and female unemployment and gender inequalities. It was encouraging to note that, despite the devastation caused by the tsunami and short-term fiscal pressures, the Maldives had already succeeded in reducing poverty and providing primary education.

60. Global imbalances in economic, financial and trade regimes constituted a major road block to the achievement of development targets and in that regard, his Government regretted the failure of the Doha Round negotiations. It was vital that the United Nations should renew its efforts to design a global economy that addressed the issue of inequality and redressed the global imbalances in finance and trade regimes.

61. Finally, it was encouraging that many developed countries had taken initiatives to meet the ODA target of 0.7 per cent of GNP by the year 2015. The Government of the Maldives called upon the others to do likewise so that the internationally agreed development goals could be achieved on target.

62. *Ms. Intelmann (Estonia) took the Chair.*

63. **Mr. Arias Cárdenas** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that the collapse of the Doha Round talks proved once again that the developed countries did not have the political will to build on and deepen liberalization in current WTO agreements. The failure of some countries to honour their commitments was nothing more than an endeavour to maintain neoliberal policies designed to benefit the privileged few. Multilateral development organizations should bear in mind that there was no single model of development and that countries had the sovereign right to determine their own development priorities and strategies.

64. Venezuela was against placing conditions on the provision of ODA and proposed that the Bretton Woods institutions should be democratized so that systemic problems could be dealt with effectively. Venezuela actively supported South-South cooperation and recalled that the latter should complement rather than replace North-South cooperation. Creation of a bank of the south might be a possible solution to achieving real development.

65. With respect to sustainable development, there was a pressing need to modify the current unsustainable patterns of production and consumption; promote appropriate population policies; and give explicit priority to the special needs of developing countries.

66. Finally, the developed countries shared a special responsibility to assist the developing countries affected by environmental degradation. His Government had developed a series of programmes focusing on the use of clean energy and had introduced specific measures to help its brother countries solve their energy problems. In an effort to promote South-South cooperation, it had adopted a cooperation platform on desertification with the countries of Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean that were parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and had made substantial financial contributions to various development funds.

67. **Mr. Saleh** (Lebanon) said that the global economy continued to face major challenges including, inter alia, a widening economic gap, an unbalanced trade system, poverty and environmental problems. Development and stability helped foster peace and, in that context, it was especially important to liberate people from need, social injustice and disease.

68. The realization of a better world hinged inter alia upon the full implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and the outcomes of the major economic and social conferences; reduction of the technological gap; increased participation on the part of the developing countries in the governance of the Bretton Woods institutions; debt relief; and the promotion of foreign direct investment.

69. The developed countries needed to do more to help solve the problems facing the developing countries. They could offer the developing countries greater market access by reducing or removing tariff and non-tariff barriers, thus increasing the flow of trade in commodities and services, and could revise agricultural subsidies to allow for more equitable trade in agricultural products. ODA commitments needed to be fulfilled and innovative sources of financing needed to be explored. There was also an urgent necessity to write off the outstanding debts of the least developed countries. With respect to migration, the countries of origin and destination should work together to find a solution to the problem of brain drain, which was affecting the health and education sectors in the countries of origin.

70. Finally, under agenda item 40, Lebanon supported the permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the Syrian Golan over its natural resources. Lebanon also stressed its inalienable right to its water resources.

71. **Mr. Ndinga** (Republic of the Congo) said that the Committee should continue to work for the effective implementation of the commitments undertaken during major conferences and the 2005 World Summit and of the recommendations of General Assembly resolution 60/265.

72. It was particularly discouraging to the developing countries that the WTO trade negotiations had been suspended and that the issue of basic commodities, which were still the only goods that could be sold by developing countries, had not been resolved.

73. Other issues requiring attention included new technologies, debt, poverty alleviation and environmental conservation. In its discussion of possible measures to combat growing poverty, the Committee needed to pay particular attention to the African continent, which was the weakest link in the global development agenda.

74. As current Chairman of the African Union, the President of the Republic of the Congo was concerned that the projects of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) should be effectively implemented, as they were crucial to Africa's achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

75. **Mr. Sabri** (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) said that, UNIDO was determined to support the efforts of Member States to achieve the 2005 World Summit commitments. In the context of the rapidly evolving environment of industrial development, UNIDO was focusing on three areas: poverty reduction through productive activities, trade capacity-building and energy and environment.

76. In the area of poverty reduction, its aim was to help the poor generate income, while placing particular emphasis on specialized programmes in entrepreneurship and private sector development.

77. Under its trade capacity-building programme, UNIDO was helping developing countries with

economies in transition to develop both production and trade-related capacities, including the capacity to conform to the market requirements of the developed countries. UNIDO and WTO had agreed to intensify their cooperation in that area.

78. UNIDO's programme on energy and environment was aimed at promoting sustainable industrial development and contributing to the achievement of environmental sustainability. UNIDO worked closely with governments and various international bodies, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Montreal Protocol Fund under its programme on energy and environment.

79. UNIDO attached the highest importance to South-South cooperation as a means of promoting industrial development and was building a network of industrial cooperation centres in India, China, South Africa and elsewhere to promote South-South cooperation on investments and technology. It was also working with NEPAD in the context of its technical cooperation programme for African countries.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.